

# New Hampshire ARCHITECT



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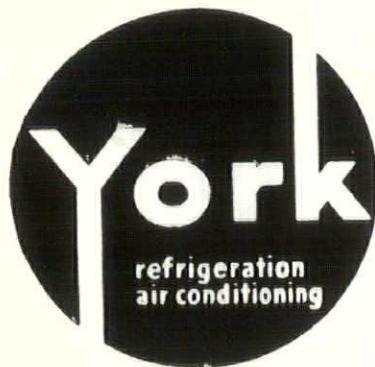
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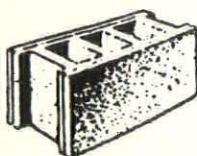


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## OUR COVER

Detail of the Front of the Chancel of the Congregational Church at Alfred, Maine.

New Hampshire Architect is published monthly at 181 North Main Street, Concord, N. H., under the direction of the president and board of directors of the New Hampshire Chapter, American Institute of Architects, to promote the objectives and public relations of the chapter. Advertising rates furnished upon request.

## *The President's Message*

The pressure engendered by the unprecedented construction activity of the year which has just ended has left for contemplation little of the time usually available at this season of the year. For the continued activity in our work we are grateful. In examining the causes architects cannot assume that they themselves were responsible. Our prosperity is an effect brought about by developments in which we participated only as individuals contributing economically in the same measure as many others.

Professionally, architects have had, and will have probably for an indefinite period, unmatched opportunities to develop. So many projects are constantly presenting themselves that, far more than usually, there are arising new opportunities for advancement in design, and in fulfilment of hopes and desires of clients. Constant efforts to effect these aspirations have activated the thinking of architects as never before. In this coming year the members of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Institute of Architects resolve that, notwithstanding pressure of work and its attendant strain, they will continue to search for the ideal solution of every project, regarding each one as a monument of the period in which it was created.



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## Purrington Appointed General Sales Manager of Dragon Cement Company

Carl H. Purrington, a native of Concord and a graduate of the University of New Hampshire, has been appointed general sales manager of Dragon Cement Company, Inc., with headquarters in New York. Announcement of the appointment, which was effective January 1, was made by R. H. B. Smith, vice president of the company.

Mr. Purrington has been with Dragon Cement Company for about 20 years. Starting as a salesman for the company, covering New Hampshire, he became sales manager of the Boston office, a post he has held for the past five years.

During World War II, he served in the U. S. Navy. Mr. Purrington is married to the former Margaret Fallon, also a native of Concord, and they have three children.

## Further Gains in Construction for 1956 Predicted by Dodge

NEW YORK — Further construction gains are expected by F. W. Dodge Corporation in 1956, though at a less spectacular rate than has been evident in 1955. Nonresidential construction volume is expected to increase sufficiently to offset an anticipated moderate decline in housing activity.

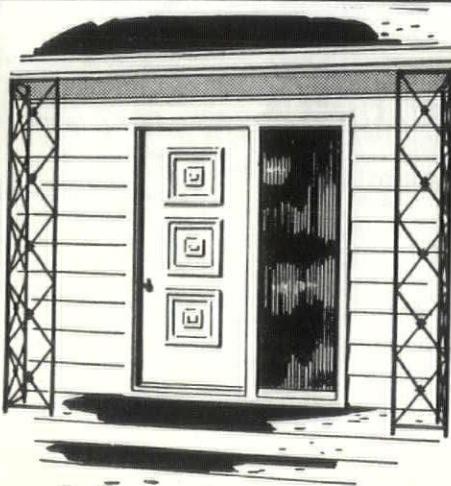
Speaking for Dodge, Thomas S. Holden, vice chairman, expressed those opinions in November's *Architectural Record Magazine*.

Referring specifically to the dollar totals of Dodge Reports of contract awards for future construction in the 37 states east of the Rockies for 1956, Mr. Holden looks for an overall three per cent gain over this year, as compared with the 1955 expected 23 per cent gain over 1954. He estimates the 1956 total at about \$25,155,000,000; if attained this 1956 total will constitute the eleventh consecutive year of construction volume increase.

He looks for Dodge's nonresidential total to go up nine per cent to reach about \$9,450,000,000 and for residential to drop six per cent to \$9,890,000,000.

Mr. Holden anticipates that non-farm dwelling unit starts may drop 10 per cent below the 1955 expected total of 1,325,000, resulting in a 1956 total for the 48 states of approximately 1,190,000 units.

(Continued on Page 6)



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## **Construction —**

(Continued from Page 5)

Contract awards for utilities and public works are expected to total about \$5,815,000,000, up 13 per cent, in the 37 eastern states.

These estimates indicate a roughly proportional levelling off in the government figures for construction put in place, as the contract awards tend to lead construction activity.

A two per cent decline is expected in square footage physical volume of contract awards next year, as allowance has been made for moderately rising construction costs and improvement in the quality of structures.

Detailed square footage estimates are made in nine categories of building. They are: commercial, up 6 per cent; manufacturing, up 12 per cent; educational and science, up 10 per cent; hospitals and institutions, up seven per cent; public up 5 per cent; religious, up five per cent; social and recreational, up nine per cent; miscellaneous nonresidential, up seven per cent; residential, down eight per cent.

Mr. Holden says that the economists polled generally expected 1956 rises in gross national product and in industrial production, but more moderate in degree than those experienced in 1955.

He who has lost confidence can lose nothing more.—Boiste

## **Contract Awards Highest Ever Recorded for the Month of November**

BOSTON—Contract awards for future construction in New Hampshire during November 1955 were the highest ever recorded for that month, according to Dodge Reports totals. The November 1955 figure was up 14 per cent over November 1954, at \$6,422,000, reported James A. Harding, New England district manager for F. W. Dodge Corporation.

Individual November 1955 contract awards compared with November 1954 show nonresidential up 72 per cent at \$1,348,000; residential awards up 49 per cent at \$2,788,000; heavy engineering awards down 24 per cent, at \$2,286,000.

The 1955 first eleven month contract awards figure was down 14 per cent from the like 1954 period, at \$75,399,000.

Individual first eleven month 1955 contract awards compared with the like period of 1954 show nonresidential higher than its entire 1954 total, at \$30,663,000 residential, higher than its entire 1954 total, at \$25,664,000; heavy engineering down 56 per cent, at \$19,072,000.

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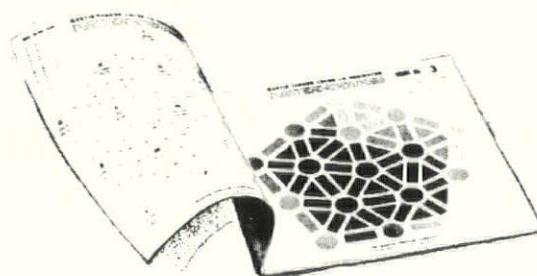
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Breakfast Meeting of New England Regional Council, American Institute of Architects  
Saturday, November 12, 1955 at Hotel Commander, Cambridge, Massachusetts

Photo by Fay Foto Service, Boston, Mass.



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## The Congregational Church at Alfred, Maine

Maurice E. Witmer, A. I. A.  
Architect

The architect of today, as always, must constantly alert himself to the growing needs of peoples in his area of interest, or as a pastor might say—within his parish.

We hear many voices clamoring for recognition—industry needs expansion, education needs advancement, and if ever there existed a time of crises and challenge in America and the world, it is today in the desperate struggle toward a new world order; and from what well spring shall be drawn the high courage and sound wisdom, if not from our churches?

Here in our New England towns, small and large, have stood for over a century the plain, but dignified, wooden and occasionally, stone or brick temples, within which our forefathers worshipped, prayed, and sought the spiritual courage and

(Continued on Page 10)

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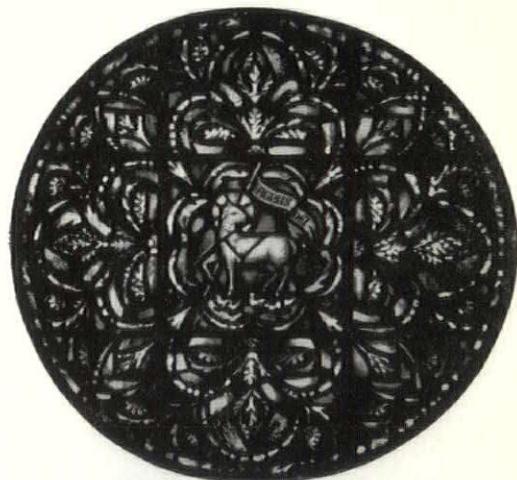
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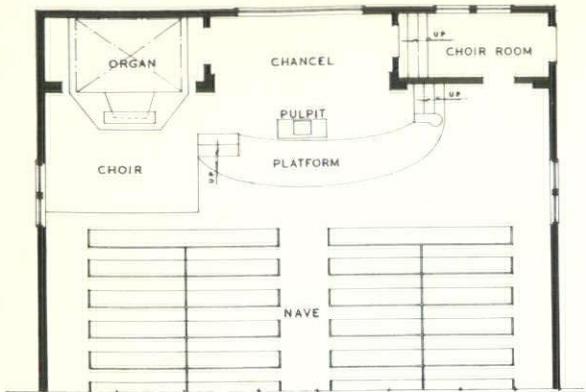
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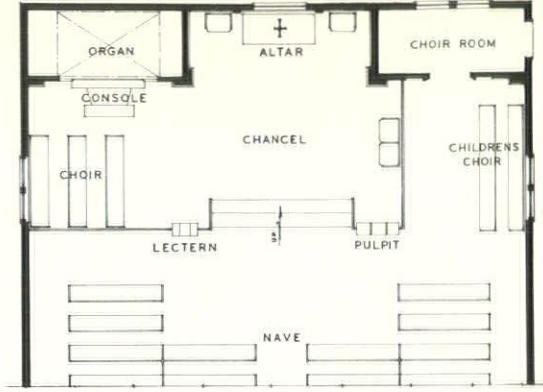
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council to confront the problems of state and society.

While the same principles are inherit in the solution to problems besetting us today—methods and tools for facilitating the greater end have changed. Time has obliterated much of the charm and beauty of early structures still in use. Careless regard for upkeep and pride in appointments have failed for several generations and in consequent our new resurgence of worship and demand for dignity and appropriateness in the temples of today are requiring a new look at the old faces.

Architects, with their tools of training in design, sense of color, appropriate use of materials, and careful planning of space, have a valuable contribution to make in furthering the worship and education, fellowship, recreation, and pastoral ministry of the church.

Every era has its complex revolution from good, indifferent, bad—bad, indifferent, good. So we find many of our churches predominately rural here in northern New England which have fallen at different eras under the influence of the super tin ceiling salesman who had cured all ills of falling plaster forever to a gullible committee of austere mind—or the traveling artist genius who sold the congregation on bizarre painting of biblical founding, or worse still, on an eerie eye, presumably of God, staring out over the congregation from behind the pulpit to witness man's continual mortal state and frailty. Then came also the geometrician of stained glass who little regarded the appropriateness of light and color, but proved his point too many times successfully in creating a perpetual



PLAN OF NEW CHANCEL

museum of memorials—sometimes exceeding all bounds of decency by putting a large area of brilliantly lighted glass behind the very pulpit or altar to display his clever wares without regard to the permanent blinding of many an earnest parishioner who would have preferred seeing the pastor or administrator of the worship service.

Many of these small churches are still substantially sound, thanks to some wise builders of the past. But time has made its inroads and it behooves the architect of today to search out the latest possibilities in these lovely old structures and restore their charm and beauty to the dignity of worship which they deserve.

The Congregational Church of Alfred, Maine, is such an example. Here is an instance where an alert and aggressive young pastor with his growing parish inspired a family of the church to help amend the ravages of time and restore the early meeting house to a new and more inviting aspect. They appreciated well the fact that many an unconverted soul and wayfarer had avoided the church, which might be a good ministry, because of their revulsion toward an unpainted, unkempt house of worship.

The following participated in construction of the Congregational Church at Alfred, Maine.

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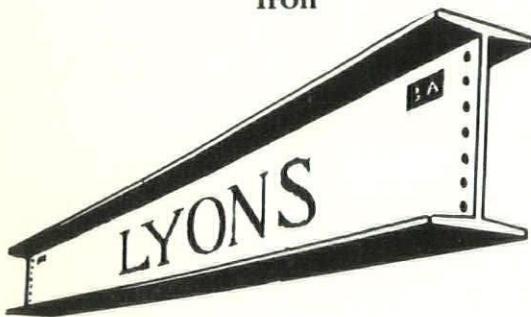
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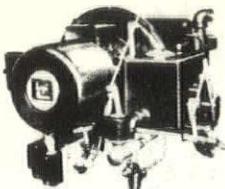
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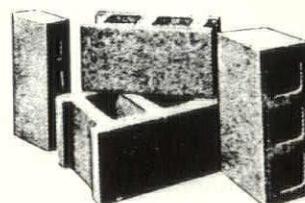
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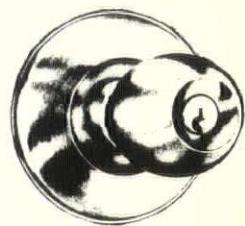
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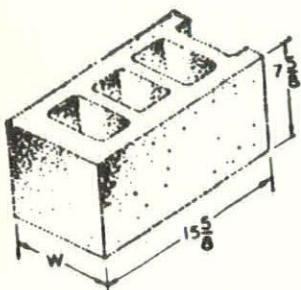
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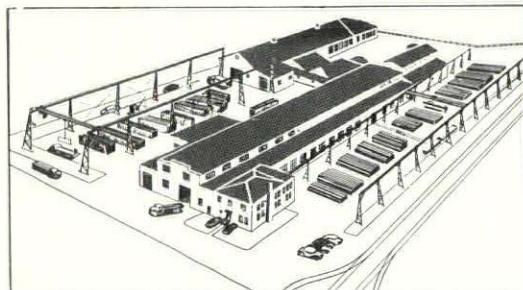
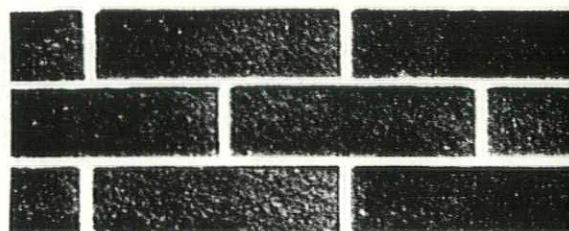


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